

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer for insertion into a cavity in a garment, boot or shoe, the dryer comprising:

a framework configured for insertion into a cavity of one of a garment, boot and shoe, which may be in an upright position;

a framework heated surface at a first side of the framework, the heated surface forming at least one side of an exit airflow passageway formed by the framework; and

a first exit airflow passageway sidewall disposed relative to the heated surface to in part define an exit airflow passageway;

a framework heater operatively attached to the framework; and

wherein no forced air convection is provided.

2. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the framework is a lower cavity framework and is configured for insertion into a lower cavity.

3. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the framework is an upper cavity framework and is configured for insertion into an upper cavity.

4. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 3, and further comprising a lower framework configured for insertion into a lower cavity of the object to be dried, the lower framework including a lower framework heater.

5. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 4, and further wherein the upper cavity framework is pivotally attached to the lower framework.

6. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the framework heater is a coiled resistance heater.

7. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the exit airflow passageway is open to an inlet air passageway.

8. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 1, and further wherein the lower framework forming at least one side to a lower framework airflow passageway.

9. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 1, and wherein the framework includes a second side with a second side surface,

and further wherein the heated surface on the first side achieves a higher temperature than the second side surface.

10. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 9, and further wherein the heated surface on the first side achieves a higher temperature by at least six degrees Fahrenheit than a temperature of the second side surface.

11. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 9, and further wherein the heated surface on the first side achieves a higher temperature by at least eight degrees Fahrenheit than a temperature of the second side surface.

12. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer for insertion into a cavity in a garment, boot or shoe to be dried, the dryer comprising:
an upper cavity framework configured for insertion into an upper cavity of an object to be dried, the upper cavity framework including a first side, a second side and an upper cavity framework heater;
wherein the first side of the upper cavity framework is heated to a temperature greater than the second side of the upper cavity framework; and further wherein the heated surface forms at least one side of an exit airflow passageway in the upper cavity of the object to be dried, and a first exit airflow passageway sidewall forms a second side of the exit airflow passageway;

an upper cavity framework heater operatively attached to the upper cavity framework; ~~and~~

a lower framework configured for insertion into a lower cavity of the object to be dried; and

further wherein no forced air convection is provided.

13. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 12, and further wherein the lower framework includes a lower framework heater.

14. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 12, and which further comprises a heat shield mounted within the upper cavity framework between the upper cavity framework heater and the second side of the upper cavity framework.

15. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 14, and which further comprises an air gap within the upper cavity framework between the upper cavity framework heater and the second side of the upper cavity framework.

16. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 14, and which further comprises an air gap within the upper cavity framework between the heat shield and the second side of the upper cavity framework.

17. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 9, and which further comprises an air gap within the upper cavity framework between the upper cavity framework heater and the second side of the upper cavity framework.

18. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer for insertion into a cavity in a garment, boot or shoe to be dried, the dryer comprising:

an upper cavity framework configured for insertion into an upper cavity of an object to be dried;

an upper cavity framework exit airflow passageway including a heated surface attached to a first side of the upper cavity framework, the heated surface forming at least one side of the exit airflow passageway, and disposed to induce upward airflow out of the cavity;

an upper cavity framework heater operatively attached to the upper cavity framework such that the upper cavity framework heater provides heat to the heated surface of the upper cavity framework;

a lower framework configured for insertion into a lower cavity of the object to be dried, the lower framework including an exit airflow passageway which includes a heated surface at a first side of the lower framework, the heated surface forming at least one side of the lower framework exit airflow passageway; and

a lower framework heater.

19. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer for insertion into a cavity in a garment, boot or shoe, the dryer comprising:

a framework configured for insertion into a cavity of one of a garment, boot and shoe, ~~which may be in an upright position~~, including a first surface and an opposing second surface; and

a heater attached to the framework and configured to provide heat to the first surface to achieve a first surface temperature which is higher than a temperature of the second surface;

the first surface forming at least one side of an exit airflow passageway; and
a first exit airflow passageway sidewall disposed relative to the first surface to in part define an exit airflow passageway.

20. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 19, and further wherein the first surface defines part of an exit airflow passageway for heated airflow exiting the cavity of the garment, boot or shoe.

21. (currently amended) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 19, and further comprising at least one passageway wall attached to the framework to provide an exit airflow passageway.

22. (currently amended) A method for drying a cavity in a garment, boot or shoe by natural convection, comprising:

providing a dryer framework configured for insertion into a cavity of one of a garment, boot and shoe; ~~and~~

providing a first surface of the dryer framework forming at least one side of an exit airflow passageway;

providing a first exit airflow passageway sidewall disposed relative to the first surface to in part define an exit airflow passageway which directs airflow upward out of the garment, boot or shoe;

heating a the first surface of the dryer framework to a temperature higher than a second and opposing surface of the dryer framework, thereby creating a temperature differential across the dryer framework.

23. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 22, and further wherein the temperature differential creates a drying airflow through the cavity of the garment, boot or shoe.

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~~24. (original) A method as recited in claim 23 and further comprising:
providing the first surface and one or more passageway walls on the dryer
framework as at least part of an airflow passageway for air to exit the cavity.~~

25. (new) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 1, and further comprising a second exit passageway sidewall disposed relative to the heated surface to in part define an exit airflow passageway, and wherein the heated surface, the first exit passageway sidewall and the second exit passageway sidewall define three sides of the exit passageway.

26. (new) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 1, and further comprising a second exit passageway sidewall disposed relative to the heated surface to in part define an exit airflow passageway, and wherein the first exit passageway is contiguous with the heated surface and the second exit passageway is contiguous with the heated surface.

27. (new) A natural convection dryer as recited in claim 12, and further comprising a second exit passageway sidewall disposed relative to the heated surface to in part define an exit airflow passageway, and wherein the heated surface, the first exit passageway sidewall and the second exit passageway sidewall define three sides of the exit passageway.

28. (new) A method as recited in claim 22 and further providing wherein a second exit passageway sidewall disposed relative to the heated surface to in part define an exit airflow passageway, and wherein the heated surface, the first exit passageway sidewall and the second exit passageway sidewall define three sides of the exit passageway.